

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the Office Action with claims 1, 5, and 10 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 5, and 10-13 are amended. Claims 14 and 15 are new. Support for these amendments and new claims may be found in the Specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,555,178 to Hashimoto. Claim 1 is directed to a position control method for feed drive equipment for a machine tool. A plurality of screws are disposed in parallel and side-by-side for feeding a movable body associated with the machine tool, which are individually driven by servo motors. The position control method includes the steps of determining torque of the servo motors as they drive the screws, and correcting position commands of at least one servo motor in dependence on the determined torque so that the servo motors have matching torque.

Hashimoto discloses a system for holding a workpiece on a combined lathe having two headstocks 12, 22, each driven along spindles 13. Each spindle is driven by a servo motor 14, 24 powered by separate servo amps 30, 31 that operate independent of each other. See Hashimoto, FIGs. 2 and 3. Incidentally, the system provides for independent operation of the servo motors, in the manner described in the background section of the present application.

Hashimoto does not anticipate any of claims 1, 5, and 10 because Hashimoto does not disclose any feed drive system having all the claimed features with a plurality of screws disposed in parallel and side-by-side for feeding a movable body associated

with a machine tool. Instead, the spindles of Hashimoto are arranged end-to-end. Accordingly, the combined lathe disclosed by Hashimoto cannot anticipate the claims of the present invention.

Claims 2-4, 6-9, and 11-13 depend from and add additional features to independent claims 1, 5, and 10. Accordingly, these claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of these claims.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 20, 2004

By: 

Dustin T. Johnson
Reg. No. 47,684

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

RECEIVED
JAN 23 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800